

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS

DECEMBER 7, 1973.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DULSKI, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 9256]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 9256) to increase the contribution of the Government to the costs of health benefits for Federal employees, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 6 and 7.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 1, 5, and 8 and agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 2:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 2 and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted in the House engrossed bill by Senate amendment numbered 2 insert the following: *in 1974*

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 3:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 3 and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In the matter proposed to be inserted in the House engrossed bill by Senate amendment numbered 3 strike out "55" and insert in lieu thereof
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And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 4:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 4 and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted in the House engrossed bill by Senate amendment numbered 4 insert the following: *in 1975 and in each year thereafter*

And the Senate agree to the same.

T. J. DULSKI,
DAVID N. HENDERSON,
JEROME R. WALDIE,
LAWRENCE J. HOGAN,
Managers on the Part of the House.

GALE W. MCGEE,
JENNINGS RANDOLPH,
QUENTIN BURDICK,
H. L. FONG,
TED STEVENS,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 9256) to increase the contribution of the Government to the costs of health benefits for Federal employees, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

GOVERNMENT HEALTH BENEFITS CONTRIBUTIONS

Amendments numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 :

House Bill

The first section of the House bill amended section 8906 of title 5, United States Code, to increase the Government's contribution for Federal employees' health benefits plans from 40 to 55 percent beginning in 1973, with an additional 5 percent increase in each subsequent year until 1977, when the Government's contribution would reach 75 percent for 1977 and each year thereafter. Under section 4 of the House bill, the initial increase from 40 to 55 percent would become effective at the beginning of the first applicable pay period which begins on or after the 30th day following the date of enactment. Each additional 5 percent increase would become effective in January of each subsequent year.

Senate Amendments

Senate amendments numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 amended the above-discussed provisions of the House bill so as to provide, in aggregate effect, that the Government's contribution for Federal employees' health benefits plans shall be increased from 40 to 50 percent beginning in 1974 and from 50 to 55 percent beginning in 1975 and applicable in each year thereafter.

Conference Agreement

Under section 8906 of title 5, United States Code, as modified by the conference agreement, the Government's contribution for Federal employees' health benefits plans is increased from 40 to 50 percent beginning in 1974 and from 50 to 60 percent beginning in 1975 and in each year thereafter. The latter increase of 50 to 60 percent was not contained in the House bill as proposed to be modified by Senate

amendments numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and is considerably less than the increases proposed by the House bill in the form in which it passed the House.

STUDENT CHILDREN

Amendment numbered 6:

House Bill

The House bill, in the form in which it passed the House, contained no provisions relating to student children.

Senate Amendment

Senate amendment numbered 6 proposed the insertion of a new section 4 in the House bill which amended section 8901(5) of title 5, United States Code, to extend health benefits coverage to an unmarried child, regardless of age, who is dependent upon the enrolled parent for more than half of his support and who is in regular full-time attendance at a high school, trade school, technical or vocational institute, junior college, college, university, or comparable recognized educational institution.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement does not contain the student children provisions of section 4 as proposed by Senate amendment numbered 6.

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT

Amendment numbered 7:

Amendment numbered 7 is a purely technical amendment which renumbers section 4 of the House bill (in the form in which it passed the House) as section 5. This amendment is not necessary because of the omission by the conference agreement of the new section 4, relating to student children, as proposed by Senate amendment numbered 6. The Senate recedes.

BEGINNING DATE OF INCREASES IN GOVERNMENT HEALTH BENEFITS CONTRIBUTIONS

Amendment numbered 8:

House Bill

Section 4 of the House bill, relating to the beginning date of the series of increases proposed in Government health benefits contributions, provided that the first section shall become effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period which begins on or after the thirtieth day after the date of enactment.

Senate Amendment

Senate amendment numbered 8 provided that such first section shall become effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period which begins on or after January 1, 1974.

Conference Agreement

Under the measure proposed by the conference agreement, the effective date of the first section, which provides the increases in Government health benefits contributions, is that proposed by Senate amendment numbered 8. This date is necessary to reflect the change from 1973 to 1974 made by the conference agreement in the calendar year in which the series of such increases is to commence. The House recedes.

T. J. DULSKI,
DAVID N. HENDERSON,
JEROME R. WALDIE,
LAWRENCE J. HOGAN,

Managers on the Part of the House.

GALE W. MCGEE,
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Managers on the Part of the Senate.

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